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## Message from the Mayor

With daylight savings time arriving this weekend, it's a great chance to remind city residents and our readers about fire safety.

Last week, I visited DC Fire/EMS Engine Company 16 — also known as the “Midnight Express.” I was pleased that Fire/EMS Chief Adrian Thompson graciously hosted my weekly press briefing — providing a chance for me to talk about fire safety in advance of what is traditionally considered “fire season.”

An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire. It's not a question of luck. It's a matter of planning ahead. Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm. It's inexpensive protection for you and your family. Traditionally, we remind people to change the batteries on their smoke alarms the same weekend that we turn back our clocks for daylight savings time — this is the weekend of October 29 and 30.

All DC firehouses have smoke alarms and batteries available free of charge for District residents.

Here are a few additional fire safety tips:

- Never overload circuits or extension cords. When using appliances follow the manufacturer's safety precautions.
- If you use portable heaters, remember to keep anything combustible at least three feet away from them. Also, keep fire in the fireplace. Use fire screens and have your chimney cleaned annually.
- Consider purchasing a fire safety sprinkler for your home. When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased.
- Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never open doors that are hot.
- If you have children, remember that children under five are naturally curious about fire and many play with matches and lighters. Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

Finally, every year, more than 1,200 senior citizens across the country die in fires. Many of these fire deaths could have been prevented. Seniors are especially vulnerable because many live alone and can't respond quickly. Therefore, all of us should remember to keep a close eye on our elderly neighbors.

For more information on fire safety, please visit the DC Fire/EMS Web site at <http://fems.dc.gov>. And, remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you turn your clocks back early Sunday, October 30.



# CASA for Children of DC Award

Last week I was pleased to accept CASA for Children of DC's "Powerful Voice for Children Award" during an event held at the new Busboys and Poets café in the U Street neighborhood. The award recognized my ongoing commitment to building community support for victimized children in the District.

Other awardees included Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, City Council Chairman Linda W. Cropp, US Sen. Mary Landrieu (Louisiana), Judge Anita Josey-Herring, Maxine Baker, CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation, and Ann Allen, Former CEO of the Cafritz Foundation.

Court Appointed Special Advocates ("CASAs") are trained volunteers representing children in cases of abuse and neglect in the District of Columbia Family Court System. They represent one family at a time, with 1-3 children ranging in age from birth to 18 years. First launched three years ago, CASA for Children of DC helps prevent child abuse and neglect by organizing CASA volunteers. Roughly 4,000 cases of abuse and neglect are currently in the District court system, and 1,500 new abuse and neglect cases are brought before the Family Court in the District of Columbia every year.

CASA of DC's goal is to recruit and train advocates to serve every one of the abused and neglected children in the District. CASA of DC thus leverages volunteers in the community — and puts them into action. Together with CASA, we've helped recruit more than 125 community volunteers who met standards established by the National CASA Association to serve as powerful voices for children in court.

CASA for Children of DC was created in 2002 to make sure that when the children in our city experience abuse and neglect, they can count on caring adults in our community to lead them to safety. CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens with a desire to become trained advocates for children. They are appointed by Judges as officers of the court and represent the best interest of each child. As a result, many of our children are now living in homes where they are thriving.

The bottom line is that the only way we can have an impact on juveniles in trouble is when the community steps up to the plate. Government can't do it alone — and CASA DC is a one of our city's key partners. Becoming a "CASA" is a way to help reduce juvenile crime and improve life in our city. The service of our citizens is vital to our success as a city.

For more information on CASA for Children of DC, visit <http://www.casadc.com>.

## Infant Mortality Rate Decrease

The District's infant mortality rate (IMR) for 2003 was the lowest infant mortality rate in the history of the District. The rate is now at 10 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Although this report reveals District residents are making strides in combating this problem, our overall rate of 10 per 1,000 live births is higher than the overall national rate of 6.9 for 2003. On the positive side, the District's rate is significantly lower than that of similar cities such as Baltimore (13.2), Richmond (14.3) and Detroit (16.3).

The 2003 numbers also reflect the fourth consecutive year that the IMR for African American mothers in the District (14.0) was below the national rate for black mothers (14.1). However, overall, the IMR for African Americans continues to exceed that for Caucasians and Hispanics in the District.

What led to the decrease? I'm proud that we've engaged in a number of partnerships with the community that may have helped achieve the decline in the IMR.

These efforts include:

- DC Healthy Start
- Citywide Newborn Initiative
- Teen Mothers Take Charge
- Women's and Men's Health Initiatives
- Medicaid Managed Care
- Women's Services
- Health Care Safety Net

Additionally, partnerships with area birthing hospitals and maternity centers always contribute significantly to advances in improving children's health.

I want to commend our DC Department of Health director, Dr. Gregg Pane, and his staff for this outcome. We have more work ahead of us, but along with our partners across the city in the non-profit and private sectors, we should be pleased with our progress.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership  
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial  
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding  
Alerts

# Seventh Annual Public-Private Partnership Conference

This is a reminder to readers that the Mayor's Office of Partnerships and Grants Development, in conjunction with the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, will soon hold its Seventh Annual Public-Private Partnership Conference. This year's theme is "Stronger Partnerships — Stronger Communities: Bringing Neighborhoods Together."

The conference will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2005, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at George Washington University's Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, NW.

Workshops will include:

- Developing Federal Grant Application Budgets
- When Partnerships Don't Work
- Individual Fund Raising
- Funding for Faith-Based Organizations
- Foundation Funders Panel
- President's 2006 Budget

There will be opportunities to network with representatives from local DC, Maryland, and Virginia governments, as well as the federal government, local foundations and nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

Furthermore, an extensive exhibit hall will have information on the latest technology and capacity building opportunities for conferees. Interested exhibitors should contact Jeff Kost, Center for Nonprofit Advancement, at (202) 457-0540.

The cost for the conference is \$55, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register online, go to <http://www.regonline.com/83727>. To register by check, contact the Center for Nonprofit Advancement at (202) 457-0540. All registrations must be received by November 4, 2005.

For additional information on the conference, contact:

- Office of Partnerships and Grants Development at (202) 727-8900 or [pat.henry@dc.gov](mailto:pat.henry@dc.gov)
- Center for Nonprofit Advancement at (202) 457-0540 or [susans@nonprofitadvancement.org](mailto:susans@nonprofitadvancement.org)

## DC Ballpark and Business Conference

I'd like to remind our readers about an upcoming chance to score a 'major league business' or a career opportunity by attending the DC Ballpark Business and Economic Opportunity conference, on Wednesday, November 2 at the Renaissance Hotel, at 999 9th Street, NW.

At the conference, subcontractors, vendors and suppliers interested in doing business during construction of our planned \$535 million Washington Nationals ballpark will receive business development, financial and technical assistance. District residents looking for construction employment or apprenticeship training should also plan to attend this day long conference.

Attendees can also meet ballpark contracting officials, bankers, apprenticeship program representatives, possible business partners and more. For additional information and to register call (202) 299-9404 or check online at [www.washdcsports.com](http://www.washdcsports.com).

Participating organizations and government entities include:

- DC Sports and Entertainment Commission
- Clark/Hunt/Smoot Construction
- DC Department of Small and Local Business Development
- DC Apprenticeship Council
- National Minority Business Coalition
- National Minority Business Opportunity Commission
- DC Chamber of Commerce

Remember -- the DC Ballpark Business and Economic Opportunity Conference:

**When:** Wednesday, November 2, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**Where:** Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th Street, NW

For more information and to register please call (202) 299-9404.



## District Activities



Mayor Williams greeted parents and teachers and cut the ribbon at the newly opened Thurgood Marshall Academy public charter school in Southeast.



Mayor Williams presented a proclamation to supermodel Iman declaring October 19 Iman Day. Iman is traveling to major American cities as part of a national initiative to create a dialogue about beauty. Iman is CEO of IMAN Cosmetics, a global cosmetics company that created the first beauty line for women with skin of color, including Latina, Asian, African-American and multicultural women.



On Wednesday, October 26, 2005, Mayor Anthony A. Williams met with Governors Warner and Ehrlich at the Maryland State House in Annapolis to address issues of mutual concern. Among the topics discussed were transportation/air quality, homeland security, the Chesapeake Nanotechnology Initiative and tourism. This was the fifth regional meeting with Governors Warner and Ehrlich.

## Community News

- [Mayor Williams Issues Statement Regarding Death of Civil Rights Pioneer Rosa Parks](#)
- [Mayor and Superintendent Recognize National Center for Space, Earth, and Flight Sciences Education's National Science Education Program](#)
- [Mayor Williams Criticizes Council's Vote on DUI Law](#)

## Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

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|-------|--|
| 11/2  | <b>DC Ballpark and Business Conference</b><br>8:30 am – 3:45 pm<br>Renaissance Hotel<br>999 9th Street, NW   |
| 11/9  | <b>Seventh Annual Public-Private Partnership Conference</b><br>8 am – 4:30 pm<br>George Washington University's Marvin Center<br>800 21st Street, NW |
| 11/12 | <b>Household Hazardous Waste/E-Cycling Collection</b><br>9 am – 3 pm<br>Trash Transfer Station<br>3200 Benning Road, NE                              |

